

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

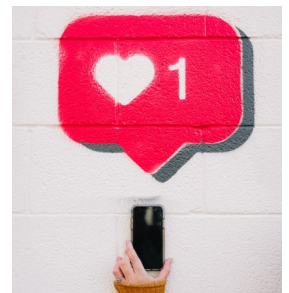
Sharing on Social Media

Holiday season is approaching and during this time, we may want to share pictures of our decorated home, gifts, or holiday destinations. Social media is an easy way to share with everyone. Although it is a fun area for sharing with our family and friends, it can also be a risky area as thieves use the platforms to take advantage of people sharing too much.

One way thieves create opportunity is by using social media to browse people's post. If you share photos of holiday gifts you received or purchased from holiday deals, it shows everyone that you have valuables in your home. The best way to secure your new valuables is avoid posting about them online. Another way to protect yourself is set your profile to private. Comb through your friends list and filter out or unfriend anyone you do not know. By switching to a private profile and filtering your friend list, you make your online profile safer.

If you are sharing pictures of your home decorations, try to avoid capturing any details that give away your exact location. For example, if you take a picture of your Christmas tree next to a window with your new gifts, the outside window may show the street sign or a distinctive tree. Thieves may see the post, identify your location, and steal your gifts.

Other posts people like to share are their vacation photos. While it may be fun and interesting to share your holiday with your friends and family, it poses a potential danger to you. Tech-savvy thieves can pick out certain details to find out where you are. A way they do so is by looking at the geo-tagged details in your picture. Geo-tagging happens when the location data is saved into a picture or a video with a smartphone, tablet, or GPS connected camera. The information shows your exact location and time of where you took the photo. Thus, if you are away from home and post a picture on social media, thieves can use the combined information on social media to determine if you are away and where your valuables are stored. Luckily, it is possible to turn off this feature. Head over to your camera settings and turn off the location services or GPS service in the camera app. The best way to protect your valuables and home when you are away is to wait until you are home before you post pictures of your getaway. By adjusting the settings of your profile and limiting what you post online it can help reduce the chances of a thief seeing your valuables or knowing that you are not home. Changing your habits and taking a proactive approach to social media can make your online presence safer.





Fending off the Parcel Theft Grinch

At the end of the year, there are many deals and online offers, which can be wonderful for consumers because they can get their items straight to their door. Online shopping is convenient but it lacks security if consumers do not do their due diligence to protect their valuables. Parcel theft is an opportunistic crime and thieves know that during this season people online shop because of the deals. Thieves will look for easy and quick methods to steal parcels. However, people can proactively remove the opportunity of parcel theft by changing the delivery methods for their valuables.

When purchasing something online, pay attention to your notification settings. Most of the delivery services send an email or push notification when the package has been delivered. Do not ignore the notification and arrange to pick it up as soon as possible. Sign up for tracking notifications if you have not done so. The notifications you receive are a powerful tool as a reminder to plan for its arrival. When the package arrives, you are the first to know. Take advantage of that detail and pick up your package quickly. If you are not able to pick up the package right away, ask a trusted neighbour or a family member to retrieve it. By knowing when your package arrives, you stay one-step ahead of opportunistic thieves.

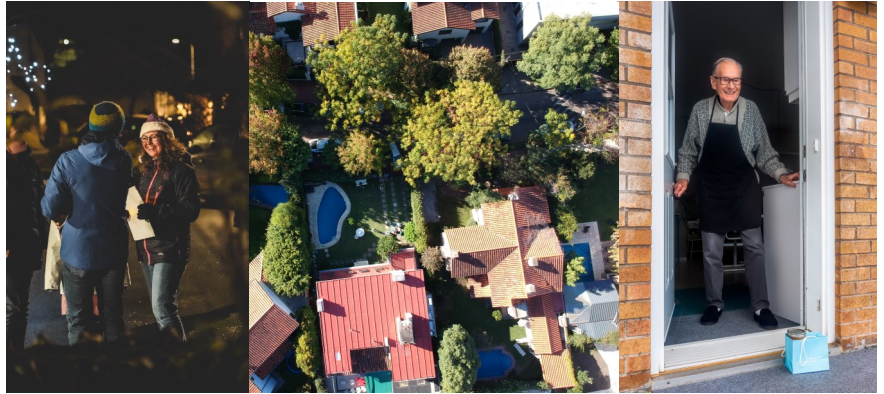
If you know you will not be home to pick up your package consider picking it up at a secure location. One option is to have the parcel delivered to a trusted friend or family member's house, that way you know it is safely delivered. Alternatively, some businesses offer a physical location for you to pick up. For example, most brand name clothing stores offer in-store pick up for online purchases, and are able to hold items for a couple of days. Moreover, some delivery services have storage lockers, which offers additional protection as you are the only one with access to the locker. Alternate locations are effective in protecting your package because they are stored at a safe place where you do not need to worry about your package being left out in the open - this option offers you peace of mind. Lastly, you can add special instructions to your delivery. For example, you can request delivery to your work place, concierge, or request for a signature when the package is dropped off. This way, your package will not be left at your front door unattended but rather it will be handed over to a trusted individual. One important point to note is that not all delivery services have signature request available so make sure to do your research and pick the best proactive approach that protects your package from being stolen.

Are You a Good Neighbour?

You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your neighbours. Neighbours can play an important role in our lives and in building a safer neighbourhood. It all begins with us being a good neighbour ourselves.

A good neighbour is friendly and considerate. Though good neighbours may live close, they respect your space and privacy. They take time to talk, smile, and wave at you when they pass

by. Good neighbours' actions support community and look out for each other. While you may not be able to change the neighbourhood in which you live, you can change the experience you have by getting more involved with those around you. Knowing the people who live around you provides a strengthened sense of community, pride and safety in your neighbourhood and your home. When neighbours work together, they can reduce crime in their area in the most effective way—before it starts.



To start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the communities together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Captain/Co-Captain, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Theft of Auto For Business Vehicles

Your vehicle is an important part of your business. Whether you are transporting yourself, tools, or materials the work vehicle is an extension to your business. An act of convenience may put your vehicle at risk of being stolen if proper steps are not taken to secure it. A stolen commercial vehicle not only leads to financial loss, it also adds stress for employees and the business.

To help protect your work vehicle from theft of auto, do not leave your vehicle unsupervised when the keys are left in the ignition. It is a crucial and common mistake many drivers make. With the seasons getting colder, many people make the mistake to step away when they warm up their cars. This creates a favourable moment for opportunistic thieves. The best way to protect your vehicle from being stolen is to keep your keys with you at all times. When you are finished with the day, do a check around the vehicle. Make sure all windows are closed and doors locked, and put the keys back in a secure location that is not easily accessed by people other than your staff.

Lastly, if your business offers a secured parking spot for your vehicle, park in the area as it offers the greatest protection for your vehicle. Observe the surrounding area and take note of the security of any fences or gates. The secureness of the fences and gates are crucial in protecting your vehicle because they are the first layer of protection. If your business does not have a secured parking area, look to improve the visibility in the area. Bright lights are effective in preventing auto thefts because it removes hiding spots for thieves. On the other hand, motion sensor lights directs people's eye to the area as the light shines when there is movement in the area. Also, install surveillance cameras, as it plays a pivotal role in deterring potential auto thieves and aiding in the identification and capture of suspects.

Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line [604-278-1212](tel:604-278-1212).

If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

